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Message Text

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----------074526 220138Z /62
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL TANGIER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, MO

SUBJECT: LAND EXPROPRIATION CASES

1. ON MAY 16 MOROCCAN EMBASSY DELIVERED FOLLOWING NOTE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS BASED ON AN EARLY MAY LETTER FROM RABAT TO AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN.

BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM IT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROGRESS OF THE FILE ON INDEMNIFICATION OF LAND HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TAKEN BACK BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO.

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CERTAIN PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF RECOVERED LANDS EITHER BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT OF AN AGRICULTURAL OR OF SOCIAL CARACTER. THESE CONCERN THE PARCELS OF LAND OF GOOD YEAR COMPANY, THE AZROU MISSIONARIES AND OF THE AMERICAN ORPHELINAT.

THE MOROCCAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION HAS BOUGHT

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BACK FROM THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF TANGIERS THE PARCEL OF LAND THAT BELONGED TO THEM.

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT WITH REGARDS TO FOUR PARCELS OF LAND THAT THE VOICE OF AMERICA OWNED IN THE PROVINCE OF TANGIER.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS PROPOSED TO I.T.T. AND R.C.A. COMPANIES THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THEIR INDEMNIFICATION.

MR. JAMES MCHALE, LAWYER OF PIERRE MOURAD, WAS WRITTEN ON MARCH 9, 1978 CONCERNING FOUR PROPERTIES TAKEN BACK FROM HIS CLIENT, ONE OF WHICH IS CLAIMED BY SEVERAL MOROCCANS.

THE FILE OF MRS. PELLENC, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT, IS EQUALLY UNDER STUDY. IT SEEMS THAT SHE IS OF FRENCH NATIONALITY WHICH MAKES HER REQUEST UNACCEPTABLE.

EVEN THOUGH THE FILES THAT REMAIN CURRENT ARE WITHOUT GREAT IMPORTANCE, THE MOROCCAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION IS CONTINUING TO PUT FORTH ALL ITS EFFORTS ALONG WITH THE MOROCCAN MINISTRY OF FINANCES WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A JUST, RAPID AND DEFINITIVE
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SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTED CLAIMS. END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY RABAT IN MARCH 7 NOTE HAS ALREADY MADE CLEAR TO GOM THAT WE CONSIDER PELLENC TO BE U.S. CITIZEN AND WE THUS SUPPORT HER CLAIM. AS FOR VOA PROPERTIES, CONSENSUS HERE HAS BEEN THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE STATUS QUO, IF POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATION. ADVISE IF FURTHER GUIDANCE REQUIRED. VANCE

NNN

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